

Appl. No. 09/625,817

Reply to Examiner's Action dated 01/30/2006

PROPOSED CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A system for controlling access to a resource of a computer system, comprising:

a database of problems and corresponding precalculated solutions;

a problem retriever that responds to a request from a client for access to said resource by retrieving one of said problems from said database and transmitting said one of said problems to said client without allocating resources of said computer system, wherein said problems and said corresponding precalculated solutions *existing prior to* ~~predate~~ said request; and

a solution evaluator that, upon receiving a putative solution from said client, employs said database to validate said putative solution and, if said putative solution is valid, grants said client access to said resource.

2. (original) The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said problems comprise outputs and portions of corresponding inputs to a one-way function.

3. (original) The system as recited in Claim 2 wherein said one-way function is a Message Digest-5 function.

4. (original) The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said problem retriever replaces said one of said problems and a corresponding one of said solutions when said putative solution is valid.

5. (currently amended) The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said problem retriever retrieves said problem employing a pointer and transmits said pointer with said problem to said client and said solution evaluator receives said associated pointer with said solution and

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~~employs said pointer for validating replaces said one of said problems and a corresponding one of said solutions only when said putative solution is valid.~~

6. (original) The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said solution evaluator grants said client access to said resource by allocating memory associated with said resource to serve said client.

7. (original) The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said resource is selected from the group consisting of:

a network server,

an electronic mail server, and

a main database.

8. (original) A method of controlling access to a resource of a computer system, comprising:

creating a database of problems and corresponding precalculated solutions;

responding to a request from a client for access to said resource by retrieving one of said problems from said database and transmitting said one of said problems to said client;

upon receiving a putative solution from said client, employing said database to validate said putative solution; and

if said putative solution is valid, granting said client access to said resource.

9. (original) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said problems comprise outputs and portions of corresponding inputs to a one-way function.

10. (original) The method as recited in Claim 9 wherein said one-way function is a Message Digest-5 function.